



REDMOND PARK BOARD



Meeting Minutes May 5, 2005 Old Redmond SchoolHouse Community Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:02 p.m.

Board members present: Chair: Snodgrass, Co-chair: Kelsey, Boardmembers: Margeson, Stewart; Youth Advocates, Zak and Jones.

Absent and Excused: Ladd

City staff present: Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Timothy Cox, Parks Planning Manager; and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of the April 7, 2005 Redmond Park Board minutes with correction as follows:

Page 1 and 2, Item III - Redmond West Little League - correction from Brad Bosworth to Brad Bozman

Motion by: Margeson to adopt minutes as amended

Second by: Stewart

Motion carried: 4-0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

Charles McCarthy - Redmond resident/Redmond Planning Commission. McCarthy speaking as a parent and resident of Redmond, so noted that in last months' meeting minutes, the Redmond West Little League had voiced some concerns regarding rainout conditions early in the season at Hartman Park. His concern was that on days when fields are seemingly playable, they are actually not due to the on-

going drainage problems. McCarthy has had some discussions with Parks Maintenance on ways to possibly help or alleviate some of the problems.

McCarthy stated his belief that Park staff resources (funding) are low which is a major reason why staff cannot spend more time on field preparation. Although RWLL does provide volunteers for field prep, it is the responsibility of the Parks Dept. to do the majority of preparation. McCarthy requested that the Board encourage the City to extend and continue the partnership between the City and RWLL. He emphasized the need for that partnership and requested the City explore further opportunities for RWLL to take more responsibility for getting the fields playable. He also stated he would like to see the partnership work towards mitigating any and other issues.

He suggested that both entities explore the idea of finding or recruiting qualified volunteers who could become capable, per City standards, in determining what work can be done. With this cooperation/partnership it might be possible to prevent and/or lessen rainouts earlier in the season.

Stewart has had prior discussions with the Parks Dept. regarding field preparation. She had seen parents and coaches with little or no experience preparing fields improperly, causing possible damage. One of the issues that might be researched could be increased access to some of the motorized tools that the Parks Dept. crew uses to turn and air out the fields. Some of the methods and techniques used, by not properly trained personnel, could potentially damage the fields or slope of fields. Snodgrass also stated her concern about any liability issues that might be involved or occur.

Margeson added that the solution might be to work with RWLL to properly train and increase the number of trained volunteers, which would be beneficial to both.

Stewart added that leaning more towards a natural field, like Redmond High School, has allowed faster dry out time.

Kelsey suggested that staff work with these leagues, return to the Board with a proposal for a recommendation, so the Board can then determine the best way to approach the situation.

Hopkins reported that there was an aggressive renovation plan is in the works for installing/adding artificial turf to Fields 5 & 6. Staff is looking at addressing, as part of this project, the drainage issue on both fields, dependant on funds

available. The Park Board will be updated next month on field maintenance at Hartman Park, what some of the issues are and how improvements can be made. Staff is committed to these improvements and will continue to refine the relationship with Operations staff and expanding the relationships with the other organizations.

Snodgrass added that, as past treasurer for Redmond North LL, the city has always been open to work with volunteers, and at the same time getting a better understanding of why games are called and why, to the untrained eye, what might be an acceptable playing field, the future addition of new techniques and strategies could improve the current situation.

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

Hopkins displayed a land acquisition map and handed out a list of properties (areas and dollar amounts not identified or prioritized) to be discussed at June's Board meeting.

Stewart added that on Monday, May 9th, the Redmond High School Drama class will be performing their yearly "Dramafest", a series of plays that are produced, directed, and performed solely by drama students. This is a great opportunity to see students come together as a team and for the student directors to show their talents as project management and team leaders.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Rose Hill/Willows Neighborhood SWOT Assessment - Cox

Cox presented the Board with a summary of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Assessment. The assessed area - Rose Hill/Willows Neighborhood is bordered by 124th Street on the north, Redmond Way on the south, east by Willows Road and west by 132nd Street.

The Neighborhood Plan was modified in 2004. The resources within this neighborhood, which is partially in unincorporated King County, are relatively limited to Willows Creek Park (5 acres which contains a play area and basketball court) and the PSE/Redmond Trail which is an east/west backbone trail located under the PSE right-of-way which extends to Willows Road to approximately 1/4 mile to the west

(soft and hard surface). Currently planned for future is an expansion to the west which may connect to Kirkland's Non-motorized Transportation Plan. The trail will follow over the I405 pedestrian overpass, in Kirkland, and eventually extend to Lake Washington.

This provides a strong multi-use backbone trail connection running east/west through the neighborhood. A proposed north/south trail, also within the PSE right-of-way and pipeline right-of-way, is being planned.

Weaknesses for the Willows Neighborhood Park include: limited parking, steep slope - which limits the useable area of the five acre park site to approximately three acres and the remote location - end of cul-de-sac on 142nd Ave. NE.

Opportunities for this Park include: creating a trail that would come from the backbone, PSE Trail, coming south, with hook-up to Willows Creek Park, which in turn would create better non-motorized transportation along with better trail abilities to get to and from the park. There is also some potential for future expanded use of existing facilities.

From the recreation perspective, the Recreation Division of Parks and Recreation does provide some recreational services to the existing park site - Fun Factory program during summer months and informal and passive uses for recreational activities.

One of the weaknesses of the neighborhood in general, as it relates to park use, is that it is one of the few neighborhoods that do not have a school within its boundaries. Normally, the department uses school facilities, during weekends and after hours, for sports or recreational activities offered through Parks and Recreation. Also, there is some difficulty obtaining and acquiring right-of-way for the north/south pipeline trail since some of the property owners along the way have built fences along their property lines.

Other resources within the area that provide promise for future and current recreational use is, Kirkland's, Mark Twain Neighborhood Park located at 132nd/106th, (6.7 acres) providing basketball, picnicking and playground activities. Other large and open space sites adjacent to this neighborhood include: Future Sammamish Valley Community Park site (32 acres located at the NE corner of Willows Rd and NE 116th St.) and Willows Run Golf Course.

Cox reported that staff would report, at the June meeting, the SWOT and provide some conclusions and strategies for the future. A report will be given on each neighborhood to identify the SWOT and will also be making recommendations to the Board. Each neighborhood report will be filed and information will be used in the next PRO Plan update and the Park Improvement Plan addressing future needs.

Hopkins stated that one of the recommendations or conclusions would be to tap into existing resources. EHAW is looking at networking with the LWSD and potentially the City of Redmond to provide another locate another park in the area, as identified in the PRO Plan.

The Trails Commission is currently looking at a strategy for acquisition of the north/south pipeline trail, both in the Willows Neighborhood and the extension south through the Grass Lawn Neighborhood. Possible alternatives will be further discussed and investigated. The Board will be updated.

Ciuba, noting that this is his neighborhood, commented that there is no access through neighborhoods or sidewalks and steep slopes at the corner edge of the existing trail down to Willows. He indicated that a dedicated/developed trail would be a much appreciated addition to the neighborhood.

The Board will look forward to staff's future proposal.

VI. New Business

A. Field Use Procedures at Hartman Park

Hopkins reported that staff has initiated a review of the existing procedures at Hartman. June's meeting will be held at the Maintenance Operations Center (MOC) at which time, Greg Byszeski, Park Operations Manager and Dave Tuckek, Procedures Manager will discuss, more in depth, and explain the present field policy and recommended changes.

Ciuba, VP RWLL, has spoken to Byszeski in reference to the Starbucks grant opportunity and the possibility of applying in conjunction with the City of Redmond Parks Dept. Any funding would be used for drainage and restoration of surfaces for Field 1-4 at Hartman.

The grant amount is \$50,000 and requires \$25,000 matching volunteer or cash contribution. RWLL is able to put in the \$25,000 from this year and last years' budgets to go along with the \$50,000 of the grant.

Ciuba has submitted a letter of intent for the grant. The actual application is due on June 24, 2005, at that time letters of support from each partner are also required. He requested that additional letters of support from the Park Board and Mayor would be appreciated. Guidance pertaining to the application, on the Board and Park's staff is being requested. Ciuba felt this would greatly alleviate the situation of too many rainouts during the season along with a dramatic change to the playability of the fields.

RWLL funds are set aside each year toward facility upgrading. Funds would become available, according to the grant, January 2006, which would give contractors, supervised by the City to complete the work for field play for the season. This would solve the problem without taxing any City funds at that point.

Motion by Zak, for the Park Board to write a letter of support that is required, to assist in the application for the grant applied for by the Redmond West Little League.

Second by Stewart
Unanimous 4-0

VII. Reports - Projects

A. Idylwood Park Playground - Cox

Permits and final construction documents have been obtained. Groundbreaking will take place on Monday, May 9th, weather dependant. Completion will take place before school closure, sometime in June (5 weeks construction time period).

B. Evans Trail - Stage II - Cox

Permit and final construction documents have been obtained. Trail connects Perrigo Park to the north to 95th (Conrad Olson) and to the south at Union Hill Road. Stage I - built last year, .8 of mile; Stage II, .4 of a mile all raised trail over some sensitive area (wetlands). Construction will take place the first week in May and end the last part of September.

National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. The Trails Commission has extended their invitation to the public for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Park Board will receive invitations are encouraged and welcome to come.

C. WRPA Awards - Hopkins

The Parks Dept. received four awards of excellence from the Washington Recreation and Park Association.

D. Potential Alternative Funding Source - Hopkins

Hopkins reported that the timeline for the alternative funding source:

Study/Work Session with Council June 28
(Joint session with Park Board and Council)

No decisions have been made to date. Staff is proposing that the Board choose a sub-committee that would work with staff to formalize a preliminary conclusion/recommendation/interpretation, regarding the prior information the Board received. The Board's interpretation dictates previous discussion as to the amount of the bond and project priorities.

1. Board's subcommittee work with staff to draft a preliminary interpretation of the data to present to the Council at the Study Session (5 mins).
2. Staff make a presentation to Council on methodology - structure, what, why
3. Consultant - present polling information and review data

Subcommittee members - Kelsey and Stewart

Hopkins and Cox will work with the subcommittee members to get the initial draft together the draft will be given to the Board well before the June meeting for review; at which time discussion will take place for final input, wordsmithing and verify joint effort.

Snodgrass encouraged all Board members to attend the June 28th meeting.

VIII. Coming Attractions

A. Anderson Park Water Source Improvement Project

Public Works Utility is planning on the construction of a water treatment facility at the Park. Wells #1 and #2, as well as a treatment facility are planned to be replaced. A location of the new facility has been selected with support from the Mayor, Public Works Director and Parks Director. Further discussion will take place at next months' meeting. The consultant, HDR Engineering and Public Works staff will attend to give detailed information.

B. Next months' agenda items:

- Alternative Funding Discussion
- Anderson Park Water Source Improvement Project
- Land Acquisition Conversation
- Park Volunteer and Maintenance Opportunities Partnership

C. Recognition of Student Advocates

On behalf of the Board and staff, Snodgrass thanked Zak and Jones for their service and presented them with certificates of appreciation for their contributions as members of the Park Board. In fall 2005, Jones will be attending Boston College and Zak will be attending Cal-Tech.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Margeson

Second by: Stewart

Approved: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

By: _____

Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

June 2, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Location: Parks Maintenance Operations Building